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## Minutes City Council Education and Technology Advancement Committee May 1, 2007

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Minutes of the Council Education and Technology Advancement Committee held on May 1, 2007, 2:30 p.m., in the Third Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.

**Committee Members Present:**

Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian, Chair

**Committee Members Absent:**

Councilmember Barb Carter

**City Staff Present:**

Tom Canasi, Comm Services Mgr  
Shelley Hearn, Comm Relations Mgr  
Jan Hort, City Clerk  
Sheri Partridge, Council Aide  
Chris Salomone, Comm Dev Mgr  
Alex Smith, Technology Dev Specialist

**Guests Present:**

Ray Castillo, ASU – Career Services  
Chris Bustamante, VP, Rio Salado College  
Robin Hammond, ASU - Career Services  
Barbara Khalsa, Rio Salado Community College  
Kristin Mahr, Asst, Dir of Development, Gateway Community College  
Catherine Mayorga, Tempe Chamber of Commerce  
Mary Ann Miller, Tempe Chamber of Commerce  
Shirley Miles, Tempe Union High School District  
Karen Poole, MCCCDD, Associate Director, Center for Workforce Development  
Dr. David Schauer, Superintendent, Kyrene Elementary School District  
Elaine Stover, ASU, Career Services  
Dr. Arthur Tate, Superintendent, Tempe Elementary School District

**Technology Advancement**

Councilmember Shekerjian called the Technology Advancement portion of the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

**Agenda Item #1 – Public Appearances**

None.

**Agenda Item #2 – Approval of Technology Advancement Minutes**

Minutes from the Technology Advancement section of the April 3, 2007, meeting were approved.

**Agenda Item #3 – Internship Website Launch** 6111-03

Alex Smith summarized that the internship website has been completed. The goal was to consolidate all of the internship information throughout the City. Staff worked with partners at the high school district and at ASU to develop the text and the combined text was added to a menu of items covering all programs from entry-level to professional internships. The website address is [www.tempe.gov/technology/internships](http://www.tempe.gov/technology/internships). Media outreach will be done pending finalization of the press release. In addition, community outreach will be done through the Chamber of Commerce, the Tempe Union High School District, and in the "Latest News" section of the City of Tempe website.

Councilmember Shekerjian suggested that outreach be conducted annually.

Elaine Stover, ASU, demonstrated the career services web page for interns and new hires, as well as career-related part-time opportunities. Employers can post jobs or internships, both locally and nationally. Local postings are cost-free, but there is a fee for advancing the distribution. The site also allows the search of ASU resumes with over 30,000 resumes in the system.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked if this has been coordinated with the ASU College of Engineering.

Robin Hammond responded that there are a few pockets within the College of Engineering that have developed their own resume management systems, but most are coordinated.

Councilmember Shekerjian clarified that there is a calendar of events on the site for use by anyone linking to that site from our site.

Ray Castillo added that it will be designed so that individuals will recognize that when they have an interest in tapping ASU students, there is one system and all students are connected.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked if there is a way through the Arizona Chambers to encourage cities to link.

Mary Ann Miller responded that if staff will forward a press release to her, she will forward it to the Arizona Chambers.

Mr. Castillo suggested working with the Chambers to demonstrate the system. To date, Tempe is the only municipality to go to this depth.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked staff to ask Amber Wakeman to use the Arizona League of Cities and Towns as a conduit. The Community Colleges also have sites available.

Mr. Smith agreed to prepare a letter and act as the contact.

Councilmember Shekerjian will talk to the Mayor to see if he would be willing to send something out. She asked Mr. Smith about retention visits.

Mr. Smith responded that the typical process is to discuss the different programs and gauge interest, then, send a follow-up email with all the appropriate documents. There is a standard email response.

**Agenda Item #4 – Summer Meeting Schedule**

There will be no formal committee meetings during the summer months of June, July and August, but work will continue on an individual basis. The next committee meeting will be in September.

**Agenda Item #5 – Future Agenda Items**

None.

**EDUCATION**

**Agenda Item #1 – Public Appearances**

None.

**Agenda Item #2 – Approval of Education Minutes**

Approved the Education section of the Education & Technology Advancement Committee meeting of April 3, 2007, with corrections to the spelling of attendees David Schauer, Mary Ann Miller and Chris Samila.

**Agenda Item #3 – IB Funding Request Update**

Councilmember Shekerjian summarized that Council approved the funding request by the School District for a \$25K one-time stimulus grant. Dr. Tate has indicated that the Elementary School District is considering an IB program for the schools that feed into Tempe High.

Dr. Tate added that the district is looking at McKerny Middle School for the year after next, and then an elementary school will be selected the year after that.

Councilmember Shekerjian added that she would like to meet with Dr. Tate over the summer, as the next piece of the puzzle for this committee will be to try to facilitate private funding for the high school. The committee also needs to think about the overall picture.

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**Agenda Item #4 – Legislative Update**

Shelley Hearn summarized that the House budget bills were heard yesterday. The IB language is not in the bills, but money is in the budget to fund college prep programs which could be used for IB. The final outcome is unknown, but if it goes through, schools will be able to request funds.

Councilmember Shekerjian suggested visiting with Becky Hill next week since she was going to look into funding for JAG, Bridges and also the driving education awareness programs.

**Agenda Item #5 – Career Fair/Expo Update**

Karen Poole summarized that she met with the occupational deans last month and will meet again tomorrow. As soon as they can meet with the subcommittee of the occupational deans, which hopefully will be in June, a time will be set to look at site availability. The 2008 Career Expo will be held in the Fall.

Dr. Shirley Miles added that the Tempe Union High School District Business Advisory Committee is planning a career fair in the Spring of 2008. In future years, they would like to partner, but they didn't think there was anything happening next spring and they really wanted to have something then.

Ray Castillo asked for clarification of the focus of the expo. It has been driven more by occupational focus in the past and he wondered if it would continue in that same direction.

Councilmember Shekerjian responded that it would depend on how much ASU engages. If ASU is a larger presence, it will take on a different direction. That's the reason she would like to have it at ASU. She hopes that even though the community colleges will be in the forefront because they have a template they have used, she hoped that ASU will partner fully and that we get a much broader look at higher education. She also suggested having a representative from ASU on the subcommittee.

**Agenda Item #6 – Bridges Update**

Tom Canasi summarized that Bridges staff is considering using Kid Zone as a pilot site. The after-school program is new to them and they are still developing it. They do have a model so we could be a beta test site for them. They would also be interested in contributing some resources for the program. The next step will be to have a site visit. Following that, an implementation strategy for training staff will be developed, funding will be secured, and then it will be operational. As part of a beta test site, we would track and evaluate it. A final report would determine whether to go further, whether to modify, or whether to discontinue.

Councilmember Shekerjian summarized that Bridges is a cognition remediation program which makes learning easier for children. They have a wonderful history in making a difference in classroom situations and this opens a new market for them.

Mr. Canasi added that one of the challenges with after-school programs is consistency in participation. Kid Zone is consistent with many participants in the program throughout their elementary school years.

Councilmember Shekerjian added that being a beta test site and being able to evaluate the program will provide the feedback to know if it works, and if it doesn't, before we decide whether to invest the energy and money on it.

**Agenda Item #7 – Mayor and Council Summer Reading Program**

Tom Canasi summarized that the program is ready to go later this month. This year will probably approach 7,000 Tempe and regional children. The program focuses on summer reading and literacy. Multiple studies have linked summer reading to academic achievement. Councilmembers will show their support on June 4 and 18 and July 9 and 23 for story time at 10:30 a.m. The focus is help parents realize the importance of reading and continuing to be involved. The amount of time parents spend reading to their children has a direct correlation to their reading scores when they get into school. There is no monetary cost.

Councilmember Shekerjian added that this is one way to share data with parents about why it is important to read to their children. It is an opportunity for Council to be in attendance and promote early childhood reading.

**Agenda Item #8 – Summary of Work Plan Accomplishments**

Shelley Hearn summarized that staff categorized items in the Work Plan as being completed (yellow), started (pink), or progressing (blue). Some items were also identified as requiring annual updating (with an "\*\*") or on-going (with an "#").

Councilmember Shekerjian summarized that one accomplishment was the meeting with Rio Salado Community College and the Tempe Union High School District regarding the adult education program.

Chris Bustamante, Rio Salado Community College, summarized that because they are limited by federal, state and grant funds received, they met with the Tempe Union High School District to discuss what type of extended programs could be done together to extend that funding. Rio Salado Community College started the Adult ACE program, modeled after the traditional ACE program. They had applied that model to adults completing their GED's at the same time they were earning college credits and have successfully matriculated 50 students through that program. The advantage of completing the Adult ACE program is that advisors and counselors are available and participants can earn up to 24 college credit hours and transition to any of the Maricopa County community colleges. They are currently in discussions to make this happen this coming Fall through the grant process and are hoping to work together for the next ten years. They want to complement each other's programs.

Councilmember Shekerjian added that when she was appointed as Chair to this committee she had lots of ideas. She knew everything could not be accomplished in one year and things could be tweaked next year. Out of 33 items, 9 have been accomplished, 11 are in process and some

have yet to be started. She and staff have worked on strategizing those things to see how they might be worked on during the summer. Recently, she was told that in education, in general, there are "hiders" and there are "seekers." The hiders figure out how to hide in the bureaucracy and never take any risks. The seekers stick their necks out and take risks. The amount of accomplishments shows that this committee is composed of seekers and she commended the group. She quoted a passage from *The Prince* by Niccolo Machiavelli. She added that it is important not to take for granted the time and effort the committee members have invested.

Dr. Shirley Miles added that of all the committees she has been a part of, this has been the most productive committee. She commended Councilmember Shekerjian for spearheading wonderful partnerships. It's heartwarming to work with others who don't care what our positions are, but just care for the children.

Lynette Stonefeld, Communities in Schools, suggested adding (under Item #2) "100 Best Communities for Young People" because they are planning to go forward for 2008 as well and would like the City approval when the applications come out in the Fall. Concerning literacy, through partnerships with the Arizona Literacy Center and the Boy Scouts 2500 books were provided and distributed to elementary and middle schools in Tempe this last year. For the last few years, the Tempe Police Department has provided a grant for a small free summer program for Holdeman students who actually live in Phoenix. Because they had that established program, they will be eligible for a \$10K grant to provide a free summer program for 120 children.

Councilmember Shekerjian suggested that the committee be part of their decision-making process next year and she asked Ms. Stonefeld to bring those items forward.

#### **Agenda Item #9 – Summer Meeting Schedule**

There will be no formal committee meetings during the summer months of June, July and August, but work will continue on an individual basis. The next committee meeting will be in September.

#### **Agenda Item #10 – Announcements**

- The Scales School groundbreaking will be on Friday at 9 a.m.
- The Kyrene Arts Festival will be held this weekend at Kiwanis Park at 10 a.m.
- Special Olympics on Friday and Saturday at ASU Stadium.
- Adopt-a-Child at Arizona Mills Mall in July– gearing up for school supplies
- Rio Salado GED graduation at the Orpheum Theater tomorrow night at 7 p.m.
- Kristin Mahr, representing Gateway Community College (GWCC), will become a member of the committee. GWCC has an early college high school program, and six high school students will be receiving certificates of completion for nursing and automotive repair before they receive their high school diplomas. They also train technicians for bio-tech industries.
- Tempe Leadership graduation.

#### **Agenda Item #11 –Future Agenda Items**

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None.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.**

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell  
Reviewed by: Shelley Hearn

Jan Hort  
City Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Hort", is written over a horizontal line.